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REMARKS

The Applicants have fully considered the Non-Final Office Action of September 20, 2004. In view of the above amendments and following comments, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants are pleased to note the Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 19-30 and the subject matter of claims 6-10.

Applicants submit the amendments to the claims do not raise new matter, as support for the amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in originally filed claims 4 and 6.

The Examiner objected to the abstract due to the inclusion of phrases that can be implied. The abstract has been amended to remove the phrase "is disclosed." Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner notes the inclusion of "OLE_LINK1" in lines 9 and 10 of claim 17. Applicants submit this was an error caused during the conversion of the document to XML format for electronic filing and have removed the term from the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Knapp. Applicants respectfully submit the amendments to claim 1 overcome the rejection. According to the Examiner, the subject matter of claim 6 is allowable when rewritten into independent form. Because the subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, claim 1 now defines over the cited art. Claims 15-16, each dependent from claim 1, also define over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Fagrell. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 11 are dependent from allowable claim 1, and cannot be obvious in view of the Examiner's proposed combination. Applicants accordingly request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Edwards. Claim 4 is cancelled herein and claim 3 is dependent from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, claim 3 is not obvious over the proposed combination and Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 3, 5, 11, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Vassili Karanoassios. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Each of the rejected claims is dependent from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, the claims are not obvious over the proposed combination and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Fuhrmann. Applicants submit that claims 12-16 are each dependent from allowable claim 1. The claims are thus not obvious over Knapp in view of Fuhrmann. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 6-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. As previously discussed, the subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 is thus allowable and claims 7-10, each dependent therefrom, are also allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above remarks and amendments, the application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is thus requested.

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It is believed that no additional fees are due in conjunction with the submission of this amendment. If, however, it is determined that additional fees are due, authorization is hereby given to deduct those fees from Deposit Account No. 50-0332.

Respectfully submitted,

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